

Application No. 10/761,458
Response to Office Action

Customer No. 01933

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the title as follows:

IMAGE PRINTING APPARATUS INCLUDING A SEPARATE FIXING
UNIT CONTROL SECTION

Please amend the paragraph at page 12, lines 8-26 as follows:

When the double-sided image printing mode is selected, the paper sheet P, which has undergone the image fixing operation on the surface and has been conveyed by fixing delivery rollers 61, passes below an inversion switching member 62, moves downward along an inversion convey path 60, and is temporarily conveyed into a switchback path 60a. The paper sheet P is then conveyed out of the switchback path 60a. As a result, the obverse and reverse surfaces of the paper sheet are inversed. Thereafter, the paper sheet is fed by the convey rollers 43 along the paper feed path 40 through a reverse surface feed path 60b, and is temporarily stopped by the registration rollers 44. The paper sheet is then re-fed. The toner image as a reverse surface image formed on the photosensitive member 21 is transferred onto the reverse surface of the re-fed paper sheet P by the transfer device 24. The paper sheet P separated from the photosensitive member 21 is delivered onto the delivery tray 64 through sheet delivering rollers 63, with the toner image on the reverse surface being fixed by the fixing unit 50.

Please amend the paragraph at page 14, line 26 to page 15,
line 4 as follows:

The whole control section S of the image printing apparatus is constituted by a CPU as a main component and control units 200 to 600 connected to a connection system including a bus line, input/output (I/O) port, serial interface, and parallel interface. Each control operation is performed by executing a corresponding program stored in the memory.

Please amend the paragraph at page 21, line 20 to page 22,
line 11 as follows:

As is apparent from the operation flow shown in Fig. 6, a determination whether early energization for the fixing operation is approved or disapproved is made (step S12) after the start switch SW is in the ON state in the step S11. As a result, when the early energization is ~~decided as disapproval~~ determined to be disapproved, the fixing drive permissible signal s1 is set as "nothing" in the step S24 (a determination routine of the fixing drive permissible signal s1) at the fixing control section TS, thereby skipping the fixing control in the step S25. Accordingly, an initial communication is conducted between the fixing control section TS and the whole control section S (the ~~step steps~~ S17 and S26). On the other hand, in the meantime, the initialization (the steps S12-S16) is conducted in the whole control section S. After the initialization, the fixing control is started in the fixing control section TS (the step S27). Prior to the step S24, steps S21 to S23 are performed. Further, after the steps S17 and S27, respective idling operations of the whole control section S and the

fixing control section TS are performed (steps S18 and S28),
and, at this time, the preparation for printing is
completed. It is noted that the steps S12-S16 in the
initialization at the whole control section S can be
conducted in an order different from the order shown
herewith.

And please amend the paragraph at page 22, line 22 to
page 23, line 6 as follows:

As is apparent from the operation flow shown in Fig. 7,
when the early energization is ~~decided as approval~~
determined to be approved in the step S12, the fixing drive
permissible signal s1 is set as "exist" in the step S24 (a
determination routine of the fixing drive permissible signal
s1) at the fixing control section TS. As a result, ~~Before~~
before the initialization, the fixing control is conducted
in the fixing control section TS (the step S25).
Thereafter, the initial communication is conducted between
the fixing control section TS and the whole control
section S (the step S26). In this case, it should be noted
that the fixing control in the step ~~S-27~~ S27 is skipped.